Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system comprising:

a fuel cell body;

a first portion and a second portion which cooperate with each other to jointly form a passage for hydrogen exhausted from the fuel cell body; and

a hydrogen exhaust valve disposed in the passage between the first portion and the second portion,

wherein the first portion and the second portion are directly fixed to each other and are both continuously supplied with heat from the fuel cell body following start up of the fuel cell body.

2. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein the first portion is a gas-liquid separation unit supplied with heat from inflowing exhaust gas from the fuel cell body.

3. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein the first portion is an end plate provided in a stack configured by the fuel cell body and supplied with heat liberated by the stack.

4. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein the second portion is a hydrogen processing unit supplied with heat from inflowing exhaust gas from the fuel cell body.

5. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 4, wherein the hydrogen processing unit is a dilution unit.

6. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 4, wherein the hydrogen processing unit is a combustion unit.

7. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein

one of the first portion and the second portion includes a cover formed with an internal space that accommodates the hydrogen exhaust valve; and

the other one of the first portion and the second portion closes the internal space of the cover within which the hydrogen exhaust valve is disposed.

8. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein

a spring member is interposed between the hydrogen exhaust valve and one of the first portion and the second portion to urge the hydrogen exhaust valve against the other one of the first portion and the second portion.

9. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein

the hydrogen exhaust valve is fixed to the first portion and the second portion.

10. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein

seal mechanisms are respectively interposed between the hydrogen exhaust valve and each of the first portion and the second portion.